

NEVADA BROADBAND TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
January 22, 2013
9 A.M.

1. Call to order, roll call, and determination of quorum.

Name	Affiliation	Present	Location
Brad Lyon	Moapa Telephone	X	Logandale
Daphne DeLeon	State Library and Archives	X	Reno
Ed Anderson	Nevada System of Higher Education	X	Reno
Elmer Porter	Eureka County School District	X	Eureka
Frank Woodbeck	Commission on Economic Development and DETR		
Jeff Fontaine	Nevada Association of Counties		
Gerald Ackerman	University of Nevada School of Medicine	X	Elko
Randy Brown	AT&T	X	Reno
Sherry Rupert	Nevada Indian Commission	X	Carson
Terri Weldon	Charter Communications	X	Reno
Rick Nelson	Nevada Department of Transportation		
Jim Garza	Economic Development Authority-White Pine County	X	Ely

Daphne DeLeon called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and a quorum was determined to have been established.

2. Introduction of task force members and staff, names, and affiliations

Non-members of the task force in attendance were: Sean Higgins (Connected Nation Exchange), Chris Pedersen (Connected Nation), Debbie Erdody (Connect Nevada), Fred Thompson (Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe), Ariel Martinez (Connect Nevada), Chris Maggenheimer (North Lake Tahoe Fire Department), Quin Rescigno (RX3 Communications), Bill Welch (Nevada Hospital Association), Mike Pieper (Nevada Hospital Association), Greg Gardner (Pyramid Lake Pauite Tribe), John Champagne (Commnet), Fred Sewell (ATNI), Steve Miller (Commnet), Carla Eben (Pyramid Lake Pauite Tribe), Thomas Skinner (Pyramid Lake Pauite Tribe), Jeff Corcoran (Network

Services), Jim Endres (McDonald Carano, Wilson), Lynn O'Mara (Division of Health and Human Services), George Molnar (Department of Public Safety), Maud Naroll (Department of Administration), Jane Miller (Arizona Nevada Tower Corporation), John Clayton (eCare Nevada), Jeff Drothler (Las Vegas Urban League), Alan Mederious (Lyon County School District).

3. Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Follow up from Action Items:

No follow up from previous meetings.

5. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Sherry Rupert stated page 4 should be changed from Nevada Indian Commission to Indian Education Advisory Committee. She also noted page 3, paragraph 4 should say "information" instead of "informatics".

Mrs. Rupert moves to approve minutes as revised from previous meeting. Mr. Randy Brown seconds, Mr. Jim Garza abstains. Minutes are approved.

6. Commnet Mobility Fund Auction – John Champagne, VP Business Development

John Champagne gave a brief overview of the history of Commnet. Commnet is the 8th largest carrier in the U.S., they purchased the portion of Alltel (for 200 million) that no one else could buy during the Alltel sell off. Atlantic Tele-network Incorporated (ATN) is the parent company and has focused Commnet in underserved, low income markets.

Mr. Champagne gave everyone an update on the infrastructure of Commnet in Nevada. Commnet is primarily in the four corners area, with significant coverage in Utah, Arizona, Nevada, Kansas and Mexico. Commnet provides roaming services and has a wireless product, Choice Wireless. Commnet focuses on rural areas with significant impact in and around state and national parks and tribal lands.

Most of the assets in Nevada came from a sell off CC Communications wireless infrastructure. As an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) Commnet had to have a retail product, theirs is called Choice Wireless, and is a micro retail product. Choice's Wireless plan is modeled on Cricket, you can prepay or advance pay by the month, with little or no credit. Commnet does not subsidize the purchase of phones.

Mobility Fund Overview:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) oversees Universal Service Funds (USF). The USF fund is antiquated and corrupt, the FCC is starting to reform the fund. They break this into 4 parts: schools and libraries (e-rate), hospital and clinics,

low-income (lifeline), and the high cost fund, which is the most contentious and goes to people in the most rural communities. The high cost fund is now the Connect America Fund (4.5 million), of which mobility is a part of.

Within the Connect America Fund there are three designations: Phase 1 is 300 million funds, one-time build-out; Phase 2 is only for tribes and includes a recurring mobility fund; Phase 3 is 500 million recurring fee. This particular auction was a reverse auction. In order to win the money, companies had to own spectrum, be an ETC, have a letter of credit, offer a competitive retail product, and had to build out the network in 2 to 3 years.

The road miles were determined through American Roamer and only used the centroid point of a particular census block. This was then converted to road miles. In Nevada, that meant 850,000 eligible road miles. Commnet won road miles in Churchill, Lander, Eureka, Humboldt, Esmeralda and Nye. For a total of 21 million for Commnet and 70 million for ATN of the total 300 million dollars awarded. Mr. Champagne asked for input from the Task Force and local communities on potential sites and state priorities.

Discussion:

Mr. Randy Brown asked how minutes are sold through Choice Wireless. Mr. Champagne stated they give a bucket of minutes with an option to buy more. Mrs. DeLeon asked if they used the National Broadband Map to determine the service territory. Mr. Champagne replied American Roamer is considered the expert in wireless mapping and Mrs. Lindsey Niedzielski confirmed they did not use the National Broadband Map to determine the auction sites. Mr. Fred Thompson asked if Commnet was last mile or middle mile provider. Mr. Champagne replied he is considered both and they own a variety of assets. Mrs. Maud Naroll asked if there was a solution for Baker, Nevada. Mr. Champagne stated as a result of conversations with Mrs. Niedzielski, they are working on propagation studies for the area.

7. Nevada Hospital Association (NHA) – Mike Pieper

Mr. Mike Pieper gave a project update for Nevada Hospital Association. Current status of the project includes a completed Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and completed engineering plan. The permitting process is also continuing for pole attachments. Late 2012, NHA was notified by e-Care that they would be unable to fund the private match for the award. Currently NHA is working closely with NTIA to identify solutions for the project and are currently in a holding pattern. To date NHA has had a number of interested organizations who may want to invest in the project. NHA is also very coincident of the deadline of July 30.

Discussion:

Mr. Gerald Ackerman asked if the whole project was on hold. Mr. Pieper replied some work is continuing but for the most part the project is on hold. The construction had already begun but the rest of the project must wait. Mr. Ackerman

asked how much money was needed in match dollars. Mr. Pieper stated 21% of 19.8 million would be required. Mr. Bill Welch added if a new funder was not identified in the next 4 to 6 weeks, the project will be in serious jeopardy. Mr. Brown asked if they had looked for public partners. Mr. Pieper said the timeline was too tight for most public agencies, but that conversations had been continuing since Thanksgiving. Mr. Thomas Skinner asked if they asked for a match waiver. Mr. Pieper stated you can get a waiver to allow for a lag in match over the lifetime of the project but the match itself cannot be waived. Mr. Garza stated that match can be waived if the population numbers are below the federal threshold and asked if that could be considered. Mr. Pieper said he could look into but there was no match allowance like that in the BTOP awards. Mrs. DeLeon asked if NHA had asked to scale back the project. Mr. Pieper said currently, they are planning to complete the project as applied for. Mr. Welch stated NHA is very committed to the project's success.

8. ARRA Project Reports

Las Vegas Urban League:

Mr. Jeff Drothler stated the BTOP grant allowed for Nevada Public Computer Centers which empowered the Las Vegas Urban League to open 31 public computer centers at various sites throughout Las Vegas. The Urban League also won the empowerment initiative during the project period. The Urban League is now in the final month of this project. The computer labs (all but 4 will be turned over to the organization where they are housed). At the 4 Urban League locations, plans for computer classes and part-time trainers will move forward. The city of Las Vegas has plans to open 7 locations which they manage. The housing authority will take over 14 locations. The Latin Chamber will maintain one location. So out of the total 31 locations, 25 will remain open in some capacity.

Mrs. DeLeon stated it sounded like the goal was for trainers, if that is the case, she asked if there was funding available through work force boards. Mr. Drothler replied they were currently seeking Work Force Investment Funds through Work Force Connections, which would allow for an additional open location.

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe:

Mr. Thomas Skinner stated Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe project is still progressing and they have currently constructed 29 miles. They are also connecting Community Anchor Institutions.

Arizona Nevada Tower:

Jane Miller stated Kevin Hayes is in the Caribbean. Proformas should be completed by the end of March. ANTC is also currently working on a Community Connect grant for White Pine County for Lund. ANTC is having difficulties with the BLM permitting process and Lyon County officials. ANTC is working to update a design to service

Lyon County. Upcoming locations include Round Mountain, Fernley, and four sites in Battle Mountain. Working on Community Connect project in Lund.

KeyOn:

Mrs. DeLeon stated KeyOn is now bankrupt and the company that bought them decided not to proceed to the project.

Discussion:

Mrs. DeLeon asked what percentage of the total project was completed. Mr. Skinner replied it was almost half of the total project slated to end July 31. Mr. Anderson asked if the fiber was lit. Mr. Skinner stated no, the project was only in the backbone phase and they are currently working on colocation agreements in Reno. Mrs. DeLeon asked if in the original grant application they planned to become an ISP. Mr. Skinner said currently, they are not an ISP but they are positioning themselves to become an ISP in the future.

Mrs. DeLeon stated if an ARRA project had not given an update at this meeting to please plan for an update at the next meeting.

Maud Naroll asked if ANTC had budgeted a certain amount of time for the permitting process. Mrs. Miller stated they were already over budget on the time for that piece of the project.

Ms. Lynn O'Mara commented that if there is no connectivity for meaningful use for the Nevada Health Information project will also be impacted.

9. Broadband Initiatives in Other States – Daphne DeLeon

Mrs. DeLeon tabled this item for a future meeting date.

10. Connect Nevada Update – Lindsey Niedzielski, State Program Manager

Summit:

Mrs. Niedzielski stated a tentative date for the next Summit had been scheduled for Nov. 7. She also stated the event would be focused on education and distance learning initiatives. Mrs. Niedzielski asked for input on dates or subject matter for the Summit. There is also an opportunity to offer awards at the Summit, if task force members are interested. Mrs. Niedzielski said she would solicit for volunteers after the meeting.

Douglas County Certification:

December 13 marked the Douglas County Certification including a final plan, an award and road signs for the County. The County is excited and is moving forward with projects.

Commnet:

Mrs. Niedzielski has stated she is working with Commnet, while Mrs. Debbie Erdody and Mr. Ariel Martinez are briefing the local communities about the mobility funds and how they might impact them locally.

Mrs. Erdody and Mr. Martinez gave updates on the assessments and processes for each community toward plan completion.

Match:

Mrs. Niedzielski stated the Connect Nevada project was currently on target for match but she encouraged task force members to continue to be diligent at capturing time they contributed to the project.

Discussion:

Mr. Ackerman offered the Medical School auditorium as a potential facility for the Summit. Mrs. Niedzielski also gave an update on her interactions with IBM Smarter Cities and her availability to the team for data.

11. Nevada Health Information Technology Update – Lynn O'Mara

Ms. O'Mara stated the Nevada Health Information Exchange was currently in the process of hiring a Chief Executive Officer. Mrs. O'Mara also stated 97% of physicians have access to some sort of internet connection.

12. Review and Discussion of Future Task Force Meeting dates and Future Agenda Items:

The next meeting date was set for March 21, 2013.

13. Information Items:

Mrs. DeLeon stated the National Institute of Museums and Libraries Services have funded the creation of an online digital learning clearinghouse. Las Vegas Clark County library has received funding to roll out 6 digital media labs at their locations through this initiative. There is a digital literacy lab in Carson City as well, called @Two.

14. Public Comment:

Mr. George Molnar, State-wide Interoperability Coordinator, stated broadband is coming to public safety and he anticipates working closely with the Nevada Broadband Task Force. He also noted the opening of a public safety survey of the Department's website.

Mrs. DeLeon congratulated Mrs. Rupert on her national appointment as President of the American Indian Alaskan Native Tourism Association.

15. Adjournment

The meeting of the Nevada Broadband Task Force Meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.